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For: MITIGATING INTERFERENCE BETWEEN WIRELESS SYSTEMS

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Dated: August 31, 2000


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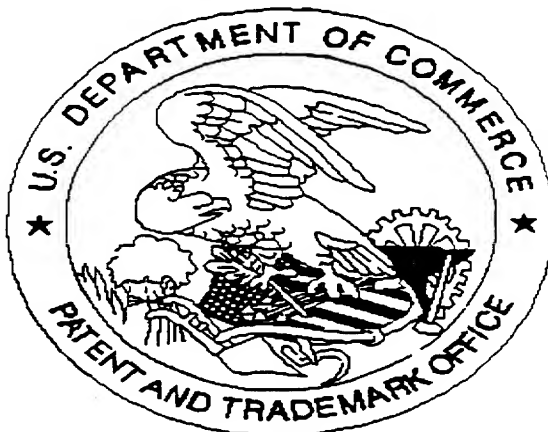
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MITIGATING INTERFERENCE BETWEEN WIRELESS SYSTEMS

Background

This invention relates generally to wireless systems including wireless local area network devices.

Packet-based wireless local area network (LAN) devices
5 enable a plurality of clients to be coupled together with a
server without the need for extensive wiring. The IEEE
802.11 family of standards (IEEE Standard 802.11 available
from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers,
New York, New York) describes a standard for wireless LAN
10 systems. It involves the use of either 2.4 GHz Industrial,
Scientific and Medical (ISM) or 5 GHz communication
frequency bands. These bands are minimally regulated and,
as a result, other interfering wireless devices (that do
not comply with the IEEE 802.11 standard) may be
15 transmitting in the same area in the same band.

As an example, within a given office that is utilizing
a system compliant with the IEEE 802.11 standard, other
individuals may utilize devices compliance with the
Bluetooth specification (V.1.0, December 1, 1999) for
20 wireless devices. Like the IEEE 802.11 standard, the
Bluetooth devices also operate in the 2.4 GHz ISM band.

Interference may result between the Bluetooth and
packet-based wireless LAN devices. Generally, in the case

of Bluetooth devices, their power output is relatively small relative to the wireless LAN devices. However, a proximate Bluetooth device may adversely affect and interfere with the reception of a local wireless LAN device. Another device in the LAN may transmit to a local LAN device proximate a Bluetooth transmitter. The remote LAN transmitter may have no idea that a lower power Bluetooth transmitter may also be transmitting. As a result, interference may occur which varies depending on the receiver that is receiving the signal.

Proposals for mitigating the effects of interference between Bluetooth and packet-based wireless LANs operating in the same frequency band generally have relied upon frequency orthogonality. However, such techniques may be ineffective when the Bluetooth and wireless LAN devices are in close proximity which, of course, is when the interference is most substantial.

Thus, there is a need for a way to mitigate interference between wireless devices operating on different standards within the same frequency band. In addition, there is a need for a system that accommodates for the problems that arise when various devices in a wireless network are not aware that receivers in that network may be proximate to non-compliant transmitters operating within the same frequency band.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic depiction of one embodiment of the present invention;

5 Figure 2 is a block diagram of a portion of the mitigation module shown in Figure 1 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a depiction of a statistics package format utilized to transmit information between nodes in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

10 Figure 4 is a block diagram for another component of the mitigation module shown in Figure 1 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 5 shows a hypothetical statistics package waveform in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention and further illustrates how the statistics package may be utilized to determine when to transmit information to a receiver in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

20 Figure 6 is a schematic depiction of a wireless LAN network with proximate Bluetooth transmitters in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention; and

Figure 7 is a flow chart for software in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

Detailed Description

25 Referring to Figure 1, a node 10 in a wireless local area network (LAN) may be positioned proximate to a

Bluetooth piconet 11. The Bluetooth piconet 11 may operate in accordance with the Bluetooth specification. The wireless LAN node 10 may operate in accordance with one of the wireless LAN standards such as the IEEE 802.11 standard.

5 The node 10 and the piconet 11 may operate in the same frequency band such as the 2.4 GHz Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) band which is minimally regulated. The node 10 includes a mitigation module 16 that is responsible for mitigating potential interference between the Bluetooth
10 piconet 11 (which is not part of the wireless LAN that includes the node 10) and the node 10 itself.

The wireless LAN node 10 also includes a physical layer 12 such as a modulator/demodulator or modem and a medium access control unit (MAC) 14. The physical layer
15 may receive a received signal strength indication (RSSI) signal from the physical layer 12. The RSSI signal is conventionally utilized in association with what is known as a channel access control.

The raw RSSI data, received from the physical layer
20 12, is also utilized by the mitigation module 16. The mitigation module 16 uses the RSSI data to detect transmission of any devices that are not part of the LAN, such as transmission from a Bluetooth piconet. The mitigation module 16 subsequently develops statistics about
25 the operation of such Bluetooth piconets. The statistics may then be used to predict when any device in the

Bluetooth piconet may be transmitting. This prediction information may then be utilized to modify the transmission time of a transmitter within the LAN to avoid transmitting when a potentially interfering Bluetooth piconet is more
5 likely to also be transmitting.

While Bluetooth and 802.11 embodiments are described, the present invention is not limited to such examples. Embodiments may be implemented to avoid interference between wireless transmitters in a variety of circumstances.

10 The statistical data developed by the mitigation module 16 is provided to the MAC 14. The MAC 14 then provides that information to other LAN network transmitters wirelessly coupled to the node 10. In addition, the MAC 14 may use data received from other nodes in the LAN network
15 to determine when to operate its own physical layer 12 in a transmission mode so as to reduce the likelihood of interfering with transmissions by Bluetooth piconets proximate to the internal wireless LAN receiver. Thus, the mitigation module 16 includes a statistics generating unit
20 18 and a collision probability estimator 44.

The Bluetooth specification compliant piconet 11 transmits data in regularly occurring bursts. These bursts may appear as relatively rectangular signal blocks that occur at regular intervals. Thus, in accordance with one
25 embodiment of the present invention, when the node 10 is neither sending or receiving wireless LAN signals, it is

assumed that any background noise received by the antenna
15 is the result of a Bluetooth transmission signal. A
Bluetooth signal includes a telltale 625 microsecond repeat
interval or pattern. Each 625 microsecond interval is
5 called a "slot". The pattern of slot occupancy repeats
with a period that is at most six slots and is always a
factor of six. However, any given slot may or may not be
occupied with a transmission depending on the particular
protocol utilized by the proximate Bluetooth piconet 11.

10 The Bluetooth piconet 11 transmits in recurring slots
starting from a synchronization reference point. That is,
each 625 microsecond slot begins at a synchronization
reference point. Information about the synchronization
reference point, the slot occupancy probability, and the
15 nature of the 625 microsecond transmission intervals may be
collected over time. A probability may then be developed
to determine the likelihood of interference between a
transmission received by the node 10 and the noise received
from the Bluetooth piconet 11.

20 In accordance with one embodiment of the present
invention, it is not necessary to actually demodulate the
RSSI data. This may be important in some embodiments
because to do so may require that the node 10 include a
Bluetooth compliant receiver. By identifying the Bluetooth
25 signal and the background RSSI noise without demodulating
the signal, sufficient information may be obtained, in some

embodiments, about the nature of the proximate Bluetooth transmitter to decrease the likelihood of interference.

As mentioned above, not all of the slots of a Bluetooth transmission may be occupied. Different Bluetooth protocols (such as HV1) may occupy or use
5 different ones of the recurring set of six slots. For example, the HV1 protocol transmits data in every other slot. Thus, that Bluetooth protocol sends bursts of data in alternating 625 microsecond intervals with a six slot
10 repeat. In general, the empty slots occur in a regular pattern in each six slot sequence.

By following the sequence of six slots, even without initially knowing which slot is the first slot of the sequence, the node 10 can find the empty slots and can
15 determine the periodicity of those empty slots.

The statistics generating unit 18 may sample the RSSI data received from the physical layer 12 at regular intervals. Since the slot is 625 microseconds in length, advantageously the sample rate of the unit 18 is integrally
20 dividable into 625. One such advantageous sampling rate is 25 microseconds. This rate may be sufficiently fine to locate the start and stop of Bluetooth transmission within a given slot without unreasonably increasing the design requirements for the node 10.

25 The statistics generating unit 18, shown in Figure 2, includes an inhibit line 32 coupled to the MAC 14. When

the MAC 14 is operating the physical layer 12 to transmit or receive data, the inhibit line 32 terminates the generation of statistic packages. This inhibition avoids generating statistics packages when the data may be obscured by the ongoing receipt or transmission of wireless LAN data (not pursuant to the competing protocol such as the Bluetooth protocol). Therefore, the analysis may be simplified and the results may be improved in some embodiments, by inhibiting the statistics package generation during intervals when the node 10 itself is either transmitting or receiving.

A synchronization estimate is achieved using an integrator 20, an offset removal unit 22, a shift register 24, a Bluetooth slot pattern correlate 36 and a Bluetooth slot pattern correlate 40. The synchronization estimate is based on a known pattern that repeats with known periodicity. The integrator 20 integrates the RSSI data over each sample interval and develops an average level for the RSSI data. The DC offset removal unit 22 takes the average measurements and resolves them to zero over an extended time period. Thereby, the unit 22 removes any DC offset in the RSSI data.

The shift register 24 accumulates the integrated sample levels over a period of time. In one embodiment of the present invention, with a twenty-five microsecond sample rate, the shift register 24 may be capable of

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storing twenty-five samples and re-circulating those
samples. That is, in order to analyze the 625 microsecond
slot pattern, successive sets of twenty-five samples are
stored one on top of the other in the twenty-five locations
5 within the shift register 24. Periodically, data is
shifted out of the shift register 24 to the Bluetooth slot
pattern correlate 40.

The unit 18 likely begins its analysis at an
indeterminate point within the sequence of slots
10 transmitted by the Bluetooth piconet 11. That is, the unit
18 initially has no way to know whether the slot it first
receives happens to be the first slot in a sequence of six
slots generated by the piconet 11. The correlate 40 finds
the start point of the sequence of six slots. When the
15 correlate 40 sees a peak in the data received from the
shift register 24, the correlate 40 knows where the
Bluetooth transmission pattern starts. Thus, by
progressively overlaying the data in the shift register 24
over a sufficient period of time, the start of the slot
20 sequence may be identified based on the time location of
the peak level.

The correlate 36 determines whether there is a
transmission in a given slot. The correlate 40 finds where
each 625 microsecond slot is, averaged over time.

25 When the inhibit line 32 is active, the shift register
24 simply recycles or re-circulates without new input data

to maintain synchronization with its previous analyses.
Thus, data is shifted from the shift register 24 to the
accumulator 26 and then summed with new data in the summer
28 during non-inhibited operation. In inhibited
5 operations, the data simply circulates back to the shift
register 24 through the combiner 30 that has been operated
by the inhibit line 32 signal to block new input data and
to simply circulate the current data residing in the shift
register 24.

10 The slot occupancy estimation unit 38 coordinates the
start of each slot and determines, based on the data from
the magnitude and synchronization unit 42 and the correlate
36, where the slot begins using the local time base. The
magnitude and synchronization unit 42 determines if there
15 is any Bluetooth transmitter that has been recognized based
on the RSSI data and determines if there is a peak in the
data from the Bluetooth slot pattern correlate 40. The
magnitude and synchronization unit 42 tells the slot
occupancy estimation unit 38 that a Bluetooth signal has
20 been identified (or not) and provides a reference or start
point for the first slot.

The estimation unit 38 then figures out if there is
anything in each of the six slots. The output from the
slot occupancy estimation unit 38 may be of the format
25 shown at 60 in Figure 5. It may in the form of high pulses
62 and low pulses 64 that provide estimated Bluetooth

transmission probabilities at given times. This information is a compilation of the timing of the slots of the local Bluetooth piconet 11 and the slot occupancy probability. Thus, the pulse 62 indicates a higher probability of a Bluetooth transmission occurring while the pulse 64 indicates a lower probability.

The combination of data including a synchronization reference point and a slot occupancy probability estimation function may be represented as condensed data set with which to estimate the probability of a future time frequency collision with a detected Bluetooth piconet. For example, this data may be compacted into a single 32-bit word that constitutes the statistics package communicated to one or more other nodes in a wireless LAN network.

Referring to Figure 3, the 32-bit word, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, may include a six tuple containing six probability estimates of two bits each, one for each Bluetooth slot. In addition, the 32-bit word may include a timing synchronization function (TSF) reference that provides time information that is correlated to the recognized time base within the wireless LAN network. The TSF data may, for example, be in accordance with the TSF standard set forth in the IEEE 802.11 specification. The TSF reference may be the least significant bits from a TSF timer, divided by twenty-five at the start of the first slot.

By providing the statistics package in a compact format, the statistics package may be readily and conveniently transmitted to all the nodes in a given network to advise them of the local conditions at each node. If each node transmits its own package during slack intervals, it is advantageous to provide the packages in a compact format to avoid any significant overall reduction of network bandwidth.

Each node 10 mitigation module 16 may also include a collision probability estimator 44 (Figure 1). The estimator 44 receives the statistics package from a unit 38 of a node to which the node 10 intends to transmit data. Thus, in effect, the received statistics package provides information about the local interference conditions proximate to the intended recipient node.

The estimator 44 receives a transmit request 66, shown in Figure 5. The estimator 44 compares the transmit request 66 to the statistics package 60. It initiates a transmit holdoff signal 68 that causes the transmission of the transmit request 66 to be shifted in time to a time when the probability of a collision is lower. Thus, if a request seeks a transmission at time 66 which would overlap with a higher probability pulse 62, the transmission may be held off so that at most it overlaps with a pulse 64 indicating a lower probability of an overlap with a Bluetooth piconet transmission.

collision probability calculator 48. Thus, the calculator 48 receives slot by slot data from the occupation calculator 46 and slot by slot data from the estimator 45.

5 The output of the calculator 48 is provided to a threshold comparator 56. The comparator 56 compares the transmit request 66 to the estimated Bluetooth transmission probability indicated at 60 and determines whether to initiate a holdoff 68. The holdoff 68 moves the proposed transmission to a period of time of acceptably low collision
10 probabilities.

A hypothetical local area network, shown in Figure 6, may include a node or transceiver 72, a node or transceiver 80 and a node or transceiver 76. In addition, a Bluetooth/LAN transceiver or access point 74 may also be
15 included in the network. An access point is a bridge connected on one side of one network and on the other side to another network for forwarding packets between the two networks. In addition to the wireless local area network including transceivers 72, 74, 76 and 80, a plurality of
20 Bluetooth piconets 70, 78 and 82 may be proximate to one or more of the transceivers 72 through 80. For example, the piconet 70 may have a range 70a which encompasses the transceiver 72. Likewise, the piconet 78 may have a range 78a that encompasses the access point 74 and the piconet 82
25 may have a range 82a that encompasses the transceiver 76.

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In this example, the Bluetooth piconets 70, 78 and 82 may operate in the same frequency band as the wireless LAN transceivers 72, 74 and 76. Thus, the possibility of interference exists between a locally proximate Bluetooth piconet such as the piconet 70 and the transceiver 72. In contrast, the transceiver 80, which is not proximate to any of the Bluetooth piconets, may not have any Bluetooth interference problems.

The access point 74 may transmit data to the transceiver 72 as indicated in 84. However, the access point 74 may be far enough away from the Bluetooth piconet 70 that the access point 74 may have no way to directly determine that its transmission may be interfered with by the Bluetooth piconet 70.

Instead, each transceiver 72, 74, 76 and 80 of the wireless LAN network does its own local evaluation of any potential interferers. Thus, the transceiver 72 analyzes the transmission from the Bluetooth piconet 70 within the range 70a and prepares a statistics package. The statistics package developed by the transceiver 72 and particularly by its unit 18, may then be transmitted to the access point 74. In one embodiment of the present invention, a relatively compact transmission such as the 32-bit word illustrated in Figure 3, may be utilized.

Similarly, each node, such as the transceivers 72, 74, 76 and 80, transmits its statistics package information to

all the other nodes in the wireless LAN network. As a result, any node wishing to transmit data to any other node can then take into account the local interference conditions with respect to the intended receiving station.

5 A transmitter, such as the access point 74, then uses a statistics package that it received from the transceiver 72 to time its transmission 84 to the transceiver 72. This is done through the collision probability estimator 44 local to the access point 74. More particularly, the
10 statistics package may be generated by a unit 18 in the transceiver 72 and transmitted to all of the other network nodes. The collision probability estimator 44 in the access point 74 may use the statistics package from the transceiver 72 to make collision avoidance decisions and to
15 control the timing of the transmission of data from the access point 74 to the transceiver 72.

Referring back to Figure 1, the MAC 14 may include a processor 110 and a storage 112 that stores interference mitigation software 90, in accordance with one embodiment
20 of the present invention. The software 90 may control the operation of the mitigation module 16 itself including the unit 18 and the estimator 44. In some embodiments of the present invention, that control may be implemented in software and in other embodiments, the control may be
25 implemented in firmware or hardware. Similarly, the unit 18 and estimator 44 are illustrated as being implemented in

hardware but in other embodiments, they may be implemented in software.

Referring to Figure 7, the interference mitigation software 90 begins by preparing a local statistics package for any local Bluetooth piconet as indicated in block 92. The statistics package is prepared in the unit 18. A check at diamond 94 determines whether an open channel exists. If an open channel exists, wherein no ongoing transmissions or receptions are occurring in a particular node 10, that node may transmit its local statistics package to all the other nodes in a wireless LAN network as indicated in block 96.

When the transmission request is received at a node 10, as indicated in diamond 98, a statistics package that was previously received from the intended target receiver is acquired as indicated in block 100. The collision avoidance calculation is implemented as indicated in block 102 using the estimator 44 for example.

A check at diamond 104 determines whether the collision probability threshold probability is exceeded. If so, the transmission is held off as indicated in block 106. When the transmission threshold is no longer exceeded, as determined in diamond 104, the data is transmitted as indicated in 108.

While the present invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, those skilled

in the art will appreciate numerous modifications and variations therefrom. It is intended that the appended claims cover all such modifications and variations as fall within the true spirit and scope of this present invention.

5 What is claimed is:

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1 1. A method comprising:
2 determining a characteristic of a local noise
3 source at a first transceiver;
4 transmitting information about said local noise
5 source to a second transceiver; and
6 using said information to control a wireless
7 transmission from said second transceiver to said first
8 transceiver.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a
2 characteristic includes determining a characteristic of a
3 local noise source at a first network node and transmitting
4 information about said local noise source to a second
5 network node, and using said information to control a
6 wireless transmission from said second network node to said
7 first network node.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further including
2 controlling transmissions from said second transceiver to
3 reduce the probability of interference between said
4 transmission and said local noise source.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting
2 information about said local noise source includes
3 transmitting information about the probability of a

4 transmission occurring at a given time from said local
5 noise source.

1 5. The method of claim 4 including delaying a
2 transmission from said second transceiver to said first
3 transceiver until the probability of interference with said
4 local noise source is reduced.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein determining a
2 characteristic of a local noise source includes identifying
3 a characteristic of said local noise source without
4 demodulating said local noise source.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein identifying a
2 characteristic includes measuring a received signal
3 strength, and identifying a periodicity in said noise
4 source without demodulating said noise source.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting
2 information includes transmitting a statistical model of
3 said noise source to predict the future behavior of said
4 noise source.

1 9. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:

3 determine a characteristic of a local noise
4 source at a first transceiver;
5 transmit information about said local noise
6 source to a second transceiver; and
7 use said information to control a wireless
8 transmission from said second transceiver to said first
9 transceiver.

1 10. The article of claim 9 further storing
2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
3 control a transmission from said second transceiver to
4 reduce the probability of interference between said
5 transmission and said local noise source.

1 11. The article of claim 9 further storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to
3 transmit information about the probability of a
4 transmission from said local noise source occurring at a
5 given time.

1 12. A transceiver comprising:
2 a module to determine a characteristic of a local
3 noise source;
4 a transmitter to transmit information about the
5 local noise source; and

6 a receiver that receives information about a
7 local noise source remote to said transceiver to control a
8 wireless transmissions from said transceiver.

1 13. The transceiver of claim 12 wherein said
2 transceiver is a network node.

1 14. The transceiver of claim 12 including a received
2 signal strength indication detector coupled to said module.

1 15. A method comprising:
2 receiving a noise signal;
3 identifying a characteristic in said noise signal
4 without demodulating said signal; and
5 using said characteristic to identify said noise
6 signal.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein receiving a noise
2 signal includes receiving a noise signal having a
3 characteristic identifiable without demodulating said
4 signal and using said characteristic to predict the
5 behavior of said signal without demodulating said signal.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein identifying the
2 characteristic includes identifying a time characteristic
3 in said noise signal without demodulating said signal.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein identifying a
2 characteristic includes identifying a periodicity in said
3 noise signal and using said periodicity to predict the
4 future behavior of said noise signal.

1 19. A device comprising:
2 a receiver that receives a noise signal and
3 identifies a characteristic in said noise signal without
4 demodulating said signal; and
5 a unit that uses said characteristic to identify
6 said noise signal.

1 20. The device of claim 19 including a transmitter
2 that controls transmissions to reduce the likelihood of
3 interference at an intended transmission recipient.

1 21. The device of claim 19 wherein said receiver
2 includes a circuit that develops a statistical estimation
3 of the likelihood of the occurrence of the noise signal
4 based on the nature of said characteristic.

1 22. A method comprising:
2 receiving a noise signal having a characteristic
3 identifiable without demodulating said signal; and

4 using said characteristic to predict the behavior
5 of said signal without demodulating said signal.

1 23. The method of claim 22 including receiving a
2 slotted noise signal and determining the probability that a
3 given slot is occupied.

1 24. The method of claim 22 wherein receiving a signal
2 having a characteristic includes receiving a signal having
3 a time characteristic and using said time characteristic to
4 predict the behavior of said signal at a future time.

1 25. A device comprising:
2 a receiver that identifies a noise signal without
3 demodulating said signal based on a characteristic of said
4 noise signal; and
5 a unit that predicts the behavior of said signal
6 based on said characteristic without demodulating said
7 signal.

1 26. The device of claim 25 wherein said unit
2 identifies a slotted noise signal and determines the
3 probability that a given slot is occupied.

MITIGATING INTERFERENCE BETWEEN WIRELESS SYSTEMS

Abstract of the Disclosure

Two separate radio frequency networks may be operated within interference distance from one another in a way which mitigates the possibility of interference. Using received signal strength indicator data, the nature of the interference may be determined without actually demodulating the interfering signal. The timing of the interfering signal and its characteristic features may be determined. Using that information, together with the probability that any given slot will actually be occupied by an interfering transmission, a statistics package may be developed which gives an indication of the probability of a transmission from the interferer at any given time. That package may be transmitted to other nodes in the same network. When a first node wishes to transmit information to a second node, the first node may analyze the statistics package received from the second node. The first node may thereby make a determination about when to actually initiate the transmission to the second node.

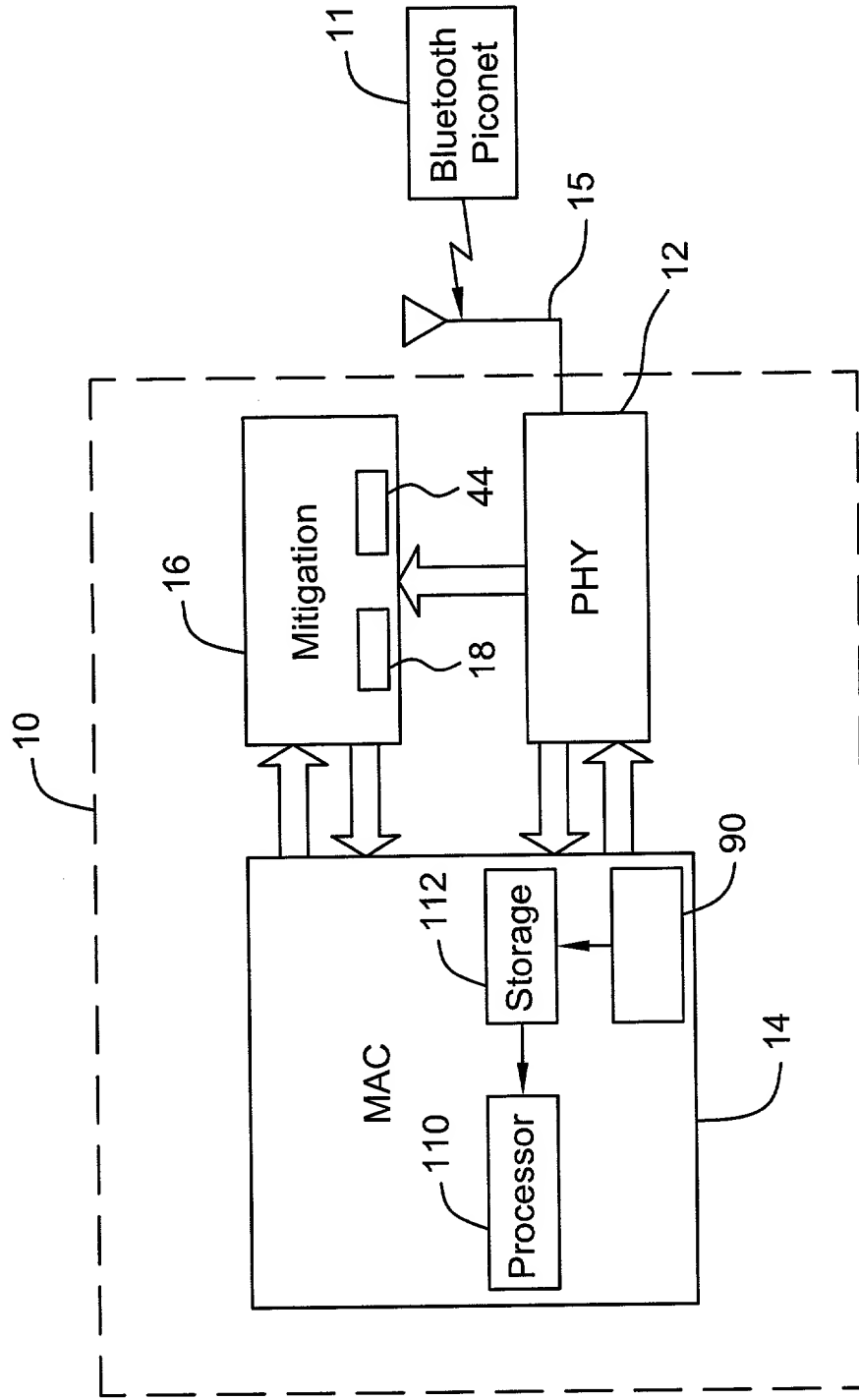


FIG. 1

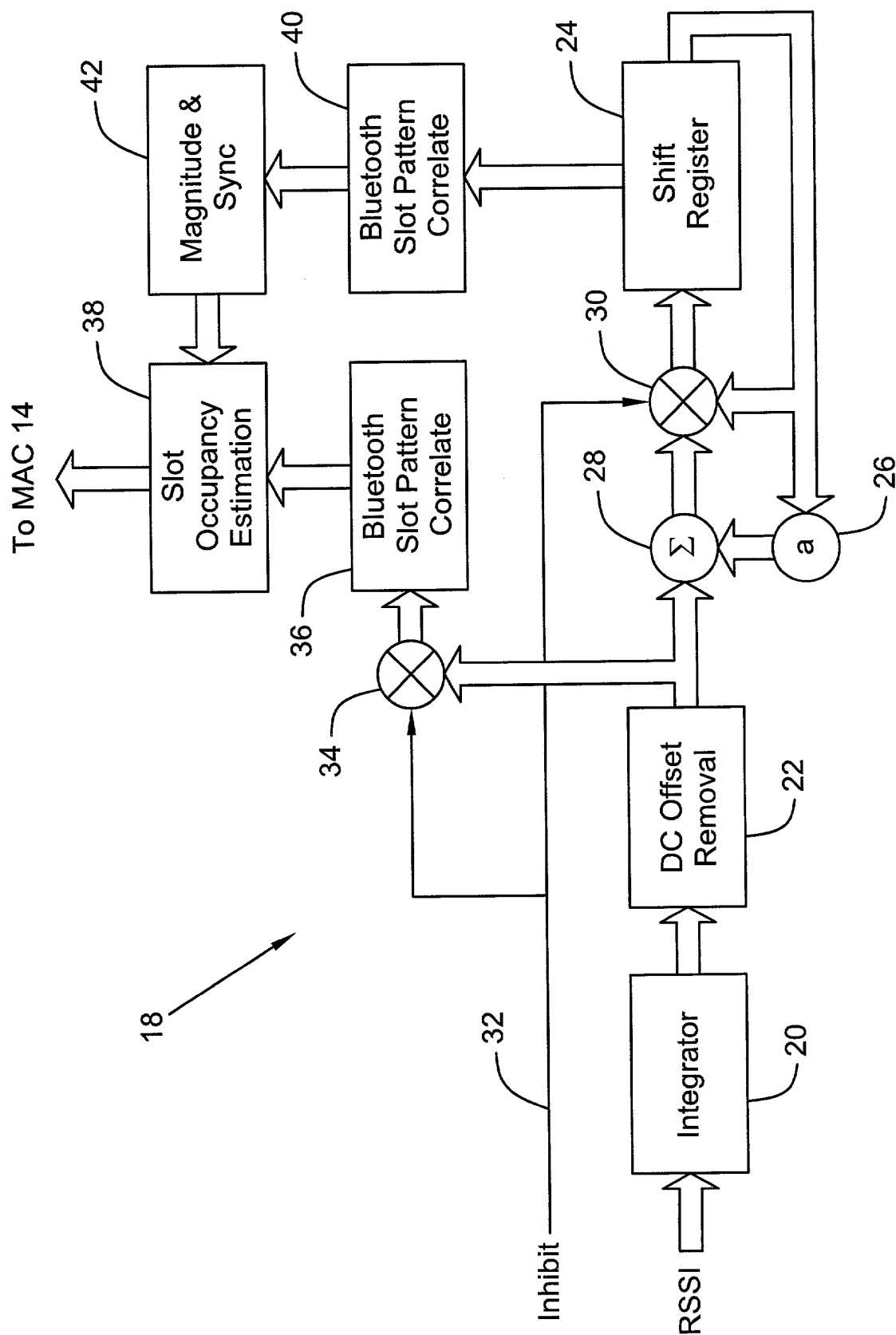


FIG. 2

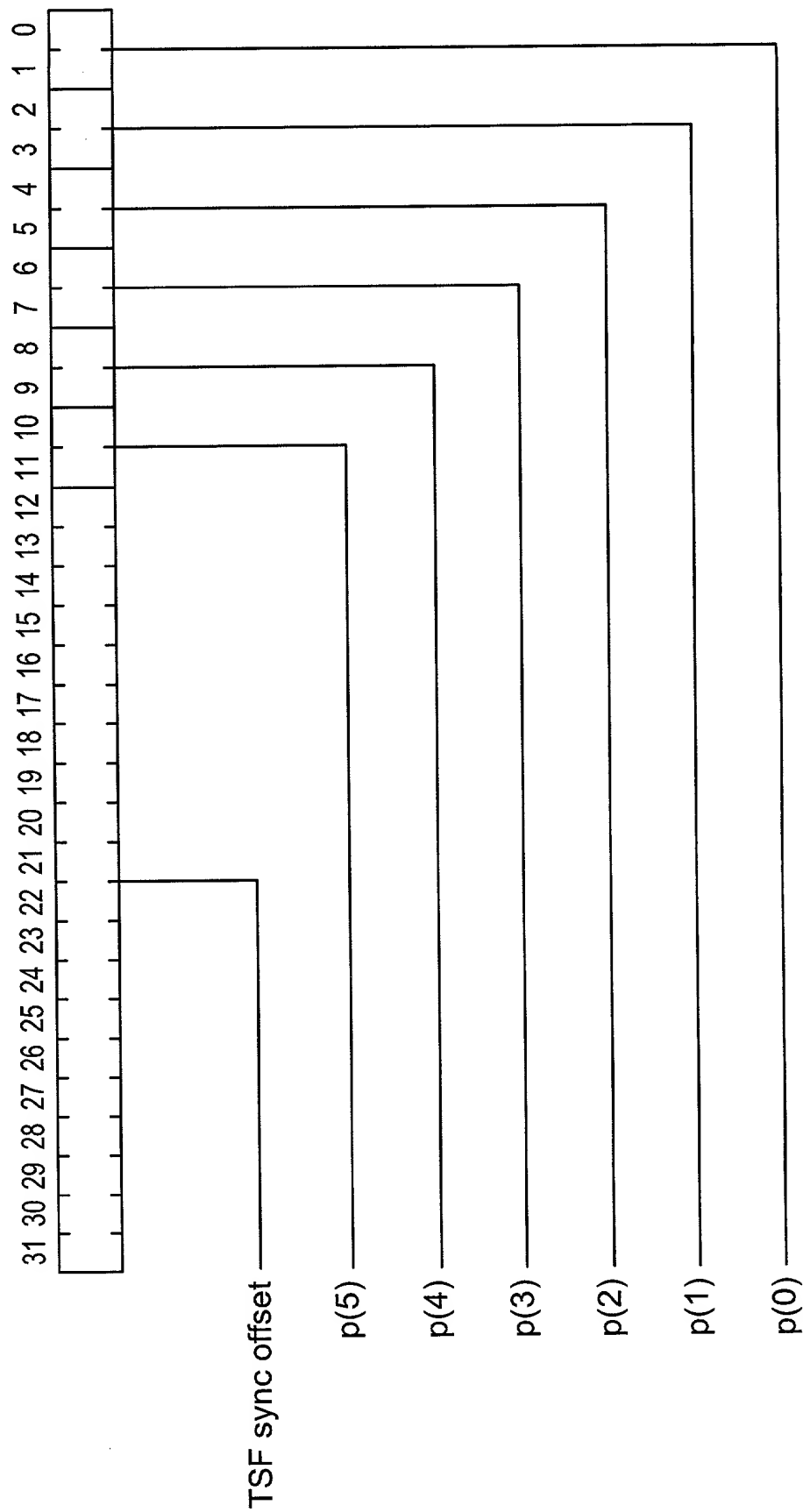


FIG. 3

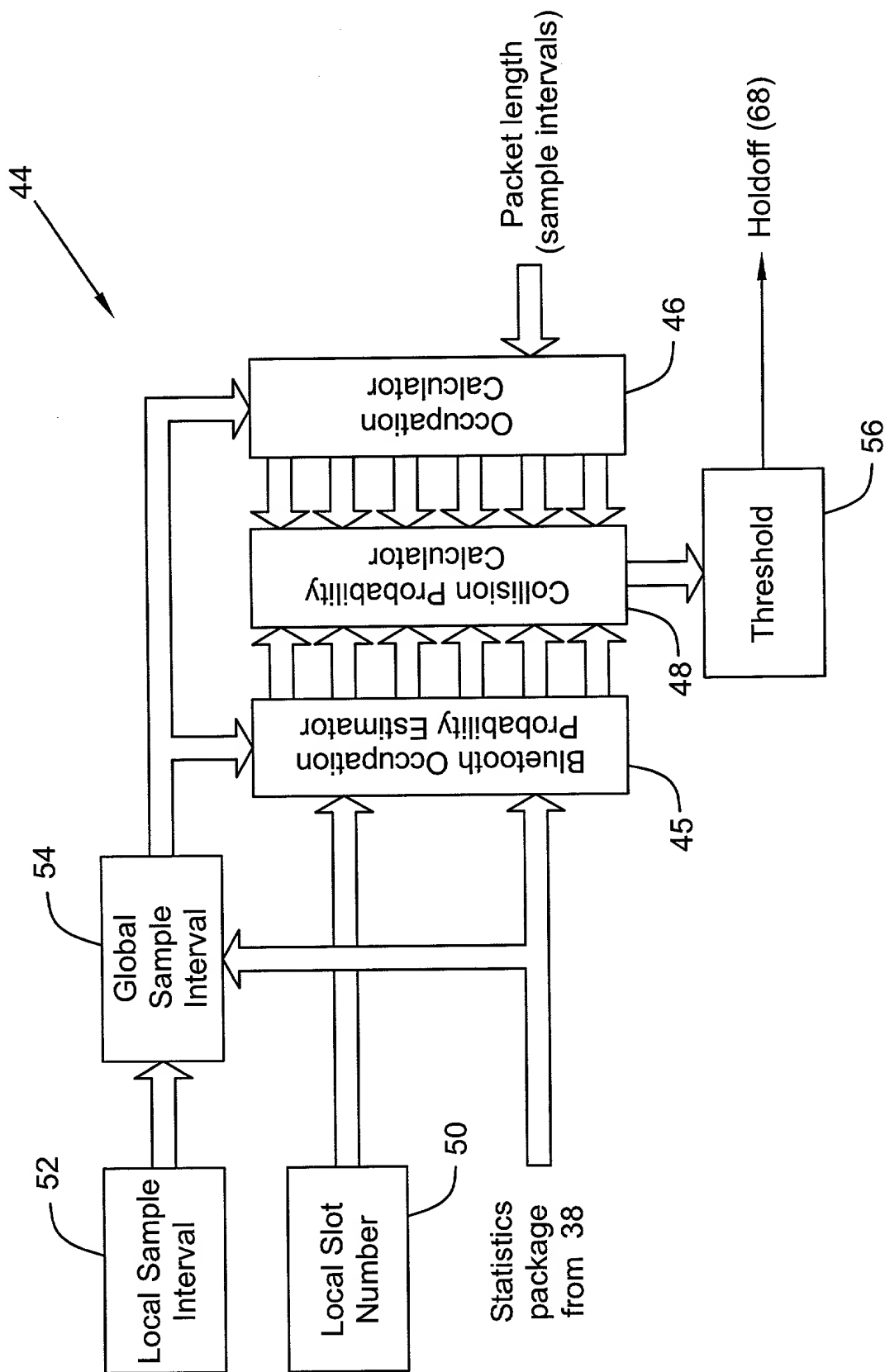


FIG. 4

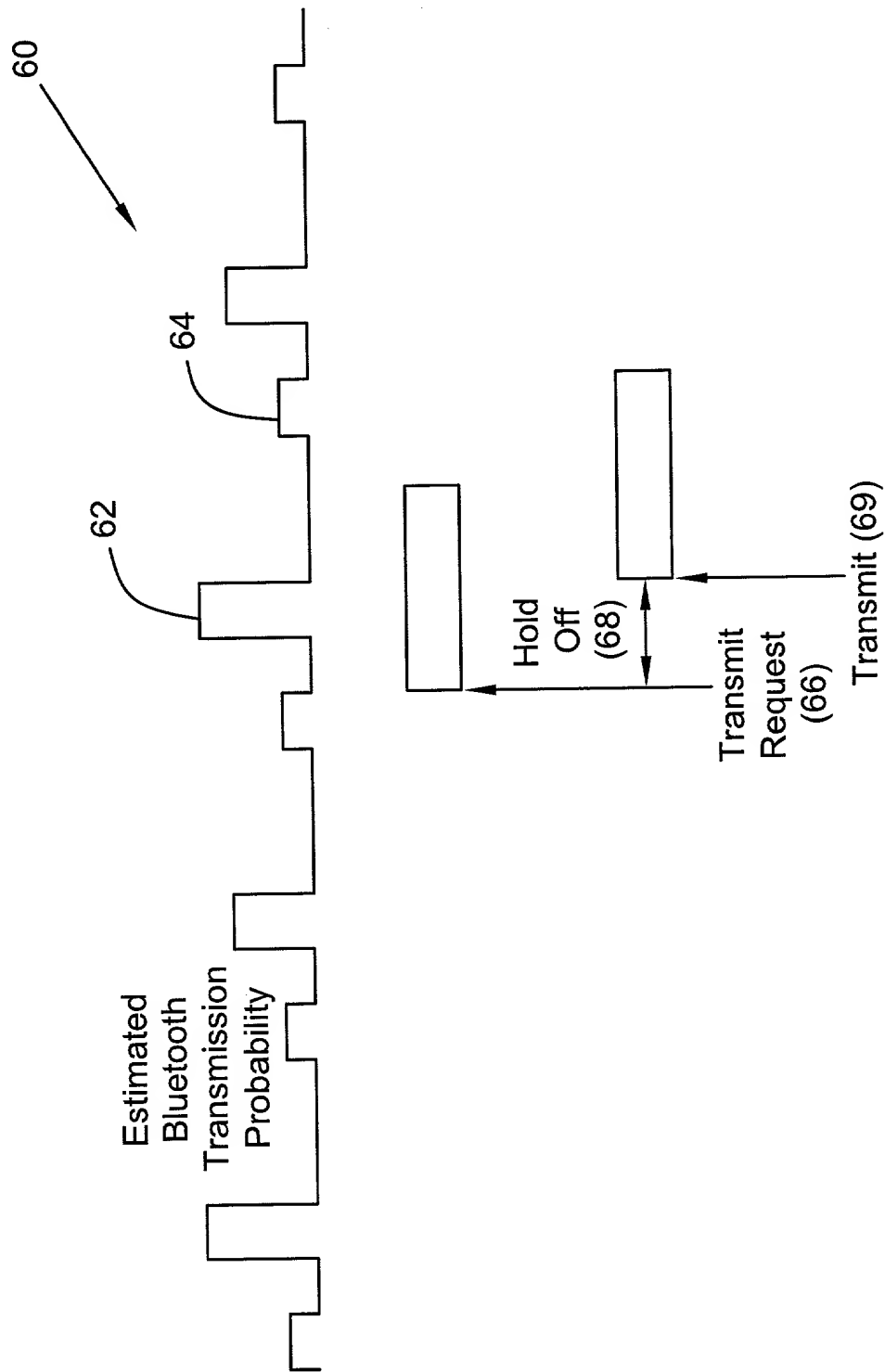


FIG. 5

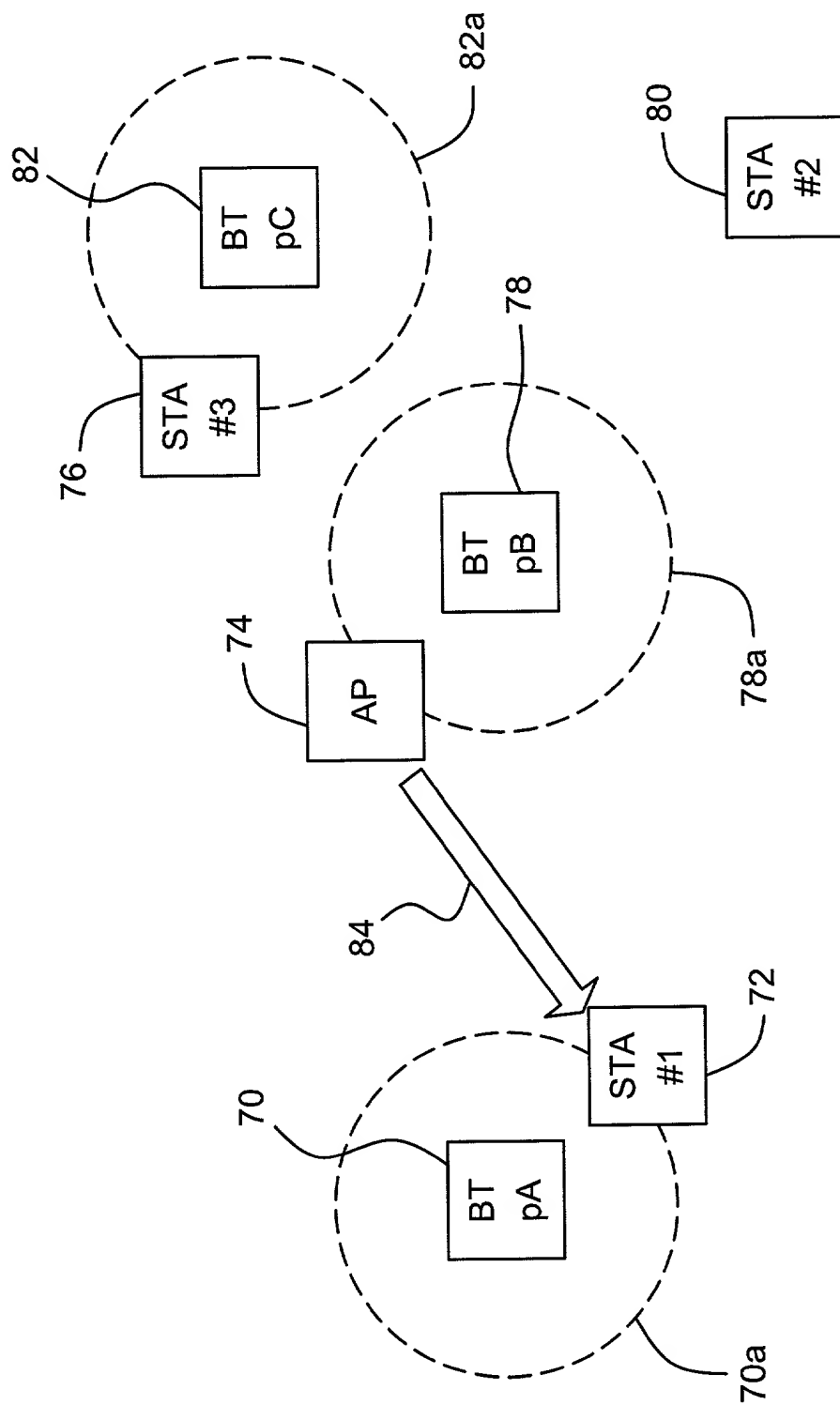


FIG. 6

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graph TD
    90([Interference Mitigation]) --> 92[Prepare Local Statistics Package]
    92 --> 94{Open Channel ?}
    94 -- No --> 94
    94 -- Yes --> 96[Transmit Local Statistics Package To All Other Nodes]
    96 --> 98{Transmission Request ?}
    98 -- No --> 98
    98 -- Yes --> 100[Acquire Statistics Package For Target Receiver]
    100 --> 102[Implement Collision Avoidance Calculation]
    102 --> 104{Threshold Exceeded ?}
    104 -- Yes --> 106[Hold Off]
    106 --> 104
    104 -- No --> 108[Transmit]
    108 --> End([End])

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FIG. 7

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first, and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

MITIGATING INTERFERENCE BETWEEN WIRELESS SYSTEMS

the specification of which

X	is attached hereto.
	was filed on _____ as
	United States Application Number _____
	or PCT International Application Number _____
	and was amended on _____
	(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim(s), as amended by any amendment referred to above. I do not know and do not believe that the claimed invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months (for a utility patent application) or six months (for a design patent application) prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):			Priority Claimed	
Number	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of the United States provisional application(s) listed below:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ Filing Date	_____ (Status-patented, pending, abandoned)
_____ (Application Number)	_____ Filing Date	_____ (Status-patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Timothy N. Trop, Reg. No. 28,994; Fred G. Pruner, Jr., Reg. No. 40,779 and Dan C. Hu, Reg. No. 40,025 my patent attorneys, of TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C., with offices located at 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100, Houston, TX 77024, telephone (713) 468-8880, and Mirho, Charles A.; Registration No. 41,199; Novakoski, Leo V.; Registration No. 37,198; Reynolds, Thomas C.; Registration No. 32,488; Seddon, Kenneth M.; Registration No. 43,105; Seeley, Mark; Registration No. 32,299; Skabrat, Steven P.; Registration No. 36,279; Skaist, Howard A.; Registration No. 36,008; Su, Gene I.; Registration No. 45,140; Wells, Calvin E.; Registration No. 43,256; Werner, Raymond J.; Registration No. 34,752; Winkle, Robert G.; Registration No. 37,474; and Young, Charles K.; Registration No. 39,435 my patent attorneys, of INTEL CORPORATION with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith.

Send correspondence to Timothy N. Trop, TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C., 8554 Katy Freeway, Ste. 100, Houston, TX 77024 and direct telephone calls to Timothy N. Trop, (713) 468-8880.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

